by December, 2003 and North-South & East-West Corridors by December, 2007.

Construction of New Roads

1347. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct new roads and widen the exisitng highways;

(b) if so, the details for the current year and for the next Five Year Plan period;

(c) the amount likely to be spent during the current year and the next Five Year Plan, separately; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure timely completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI) (a) This Ministry is mainly responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. The development of National Highways including widening is a continuous process and improvement works are taken up in phases depending upon the availability of funds.

(b) Government has taken up National Highway Development Project (NHDP) for 4/6 laning of 13252 Km length comprising of Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West corridors. These Projects are targetted for completion by December, 2003 and 2007 respectively. In addition, the Annual Plan for 2001-2002 provides for widening to 2 lanes of about 1100 km of National Highways. The programme for National Highways other than NHDP for the next Five Year Plan period is yet to be finalised.

(c) During the current year an amount of Rs. 6500 crore is proposed to be spent on development of National Highways including NHDP. An amount of Rs. 50,000 crore is proposed to be spent on NHDP during the next five years. Since the Tenth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised it is not possible to indicate the

amount to be spent in next five years on non NHDP sections of National Highways.

(d) The steps taken include standardisation of bidding procedure, pre-qualification of contractors, supervision by independent engineer, provision for liquidated damages for delay and bonus for early completion, close monitoring of projects etc.

Development of National Highways on Priority Basis

1348. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are plans for development of National Highways on priority basis;

(b) if so, the amount enhanced by the Ministry of Finance for Central Road Fund (CRF); and

(c) the amount sanctioned and released for Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI) (a) Yes, Sir. The development of National Highways is a continuous process and development works including widening to four/six lane under National Highway Development project are taken up in phased manner depending upon the traffic needs, condition of road, *inter-se* priority of works and availability of funds.

(b) The Central Road Fund has been revamped by levying a cess of Re. 1/- per litre on petrol and diesel. An amount equal to 57.5% of the cess on petrol and 28.75% of cess on diesel is being provided